



Note to reporters and editors: Please be sure to check the attached list to see if one or more congregations and pastors in your area have received this award. This release and the list are also available on our website, [lillyendowment.org](http://lillyendowment.org).

Contact: Gretchen Wolfram  
317/916-7304  
[wolframg@lei.org](mailto:wolframg@lei.org)

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## **Lilly Endowment awards clergy renewal grants to congregations in 40 states**

A record number of congregations – 158 – have been selected for the 12<sup>th</sup> class of the National Clergy Renewal Program, funded by the Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment Inc. The program allows these congregations to send their pastors for an extended time of renewal and reflection. They can step back from their busy lives and gain the fresh perspective and renewed energy that a carefully considered season of travel, study, rest and prayer can provide.

Many of these pastors will work to regain spiritual vitality through the ancient Christian practice of walking as pilgrims in several countries: the path of Jesus in Israel, the path of the Exodus, some or all of the 500-mile Camino de Santiago (the Way of St. James) in Spain. Others plan extended time in retreat settings or monastic communities in the United States, Europe and Australia to devote themselves to Ignatian spiritual exercises or the Benedictine practice of hospitality. Still others will seek spiritual guidance and sustenance by becoming part of the Taize community in France known since 1940 for its strong devotion to peace and justice through prayer and meditation. Many pastors participate in the prayer and worship of the community on Iona, a tiny island off the west coast of Scotland whose monastic history goes back to the 6<sup>th</sup> century.

This class of 158 brings to 1,598 the number of congregations that have participated since the program began in 2000. Through this program the Endowment invites Christian congregations to apply for grants of up to \$50,000 to support an extended period of intentional reflection and renewal for their ministers. Working with their congregations, the ministers design their renewal periods to suit their own needs and aspirations. The pastors are encouraged to include their families in the renewal activities. Up to \$15,000 of the grant may be used for the

congregation to pay for interim pastoral leadership while the pastor is away, as well as for renewal activities within the congregations.

“The intensity and demanding character of pastoral work in most congregations is difficult for many to appreciate,” said Craig Dykstra, senior vice president for religion at the Endowment. “They write and preach sermons, make hospital visits, administer the business of their churches, preside at weddings and funerals, and counsel parishioners. And they are expected to ‘be there,’ to be available at both the best and the most difficult times in people’s lives.

“The National Clergy Renewal Program gives pastors the gift of being able to live for a while at a different pace and in an alternative environment – to live in sabbath time and space, and to honor that moment as God-given,” Dykstra said. “Many clergy renewal participants have reported to the Endowment that when they returned they found their vision for ministry enlarged and their call and commitment renewed.

“We find that these programs can be transformative for the congregation, too,” Dykstra continued. “Not only do members grow in their leadership abilities in the pastor’s absence, they also learn how to create an environment at their churches that supports their pastor’s continued service at a pace that he or she can sustain. Many of them discover ways to renew and refresh their own lives and spirits as well.”

What these pastors do with their three- or four-month “gift of time” varies widely. Music makes the heart sing for many of these pastors, whether it’s singing or lessons in flute, piano, cello or double bass. Pastors also plan to build guitars, study drumming in Uganda and attend the Oregon Bach Festival.

As in past years, clergy continue to pay attention to their health. Hikers will walk among the world’s natural wonders – the Himalayas, Swiss Alps, mountains of Nepal, rim of the Grand Canyon. Bikers will cycle the coasts of England or take a riding tour of France. One runner will invite others to join him on a 30-mile leg of his planned 300-mile marathon. Many pastors will join health centers, begin or intensify a regular exercise program, or take classes to learn healthy cooking and food choices.

While several pastors will travel to the Mediterranean to follow in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul or to Israel for an archaeological dig or to take classes at St. George’s College, one pastor will trace the footsteps of Dr. David Livingstone in England and Africa. Another is a descendant of John Knox, so his travels will lead him to his ancestral roots in Scotland. Other pastors will visit relatives in Vietnam, Korea, China and India or do mission work in Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Kenya or other areas of Africa. Three plan to make a pilgrimage to the major sites of the

American civil rights movement, while several others will be in South Africa to learn about that country's efforts at reconciliation.

This year's group includes congregations in 40 states. For the first time, Alaska is represented with two Anchorage congregations. The grantees are affiliated with 23 denominational bodies; one is nondenominational and one is a union of two denominations. The average size of the grants is \$43,177, and Endowment support for this 2011 program is \$6.8 million. While 13 churches regularly see more than 1,000 at worship services, 75 report attendance ranging from 51 to 200.

All these renewal programs exhibit the basic thrust of the Endowment's initiative: a chance for congregations and ministers to engage in renewal of a kind that will have an important impact on their churches, their individual members and their communities.

"The wealth of imagination unleashed by this program is truly wonderful to see," said the Endowment's Dykstra. "We can think of no better way to honor these hardworking, faithful men and women than to help them experience personal growth and renewal in ways that they themselves believe will feed them most deeply."

The Endowment will continue the program in 2012. Application materials are available at [clergyrenewal.org](http://clergyrenewal.org).

**Please see the attached list of recipients.**

**National Clergy Renewal Program/2011**

**158 grants**

**Alabama**

Cullman – Grace Episcopal Church, \$49,074  
Robert H. Blackwell

Lillian – Advent Church (Episcopal), \$31,164  
Martha H. Kremer

**Alaska**

Anchorage – Central Lutheran Church (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America [ELCA]), \$14,426  
Lisa S. Fiegel

Anchorage – Trinity Presbyterian Church (Presbyterian Church of the USA [PCUSA]), \$48,820  
Thomas C. Letts

**Arizona**

Scottsdale – Coolwater Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$49,525  
David A. Shirey

**Arkansas**

Bentonville – First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$46,360  
Donald B. Morrow

Mountainburg – Mountainburg Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$42,071  
Susan R. Gray

**Colorado**

Aurora – Parkview Congregational Church (United Church of Christ [UCC]), \$36,563  
Stephen W. Hoffman

Cherry Hills Village – Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$44,955  
Ronald T. Glusenkamp

Colorado Springs – First Congregational Church (UCC), \$45,408  
Benjamin J. Broadbent

Denver – First Christian Reformed Church (Christian Reformed Church in North America [CRCNA]),  
\$49,845  
Barbara J. Engelsman

Denver – St. Luke's Episcopal Church, \$37,978  
Douglas R. Dunn

Englewood – Korean Emmanuel United Methodist Church, \$49,945  
Jung Sup "Jay" Ahn

Fort Collins – Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC), \$50,000  
Berton B. Wright

Green Mountain Falls – Church in the Wildwood (UCC), \$39,836  
David A. Shaw

Lakewood – Concordia Lutheran Church (Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod), \$43,920  
Thomas W. Teske

### **Connecticut**

Darien – Noroton Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$48,400  
Gregory M. Doll

Manchester – Concordia Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$50,000  
JoAnn A. Post

### **Delaware**

Wilmington – Westminster Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$44,014  
Gregory K. Jones

### **District of Columbia**

Washington – Covenant Baptist United Church of Christ (Progressive National Baptist Convention/American Baptist Churches [ABC]/UCC), \$50,000  
Dennis W. Wiley

Washington – Nineteenth Street Baptist Church (ABC), \$48,487  
Derrick Harkins

### **Florida**

Dunedin – First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$49,470  
Victoria G. ByRode

Palm Bay – Riviera United Church of Christ, \$36,600  
Scott O. Elliott

Pensacola – First Baptist Church (Cooperative Baptist Fellowship [CBF])/Southern Baptist Convention [SBC]), \$50,000  
Barry C. Howard

Sarasota – St. Andrew United Church of Christ, \$43,048  
Philip A. Garrison

Wellington – St. Michael Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$49,864  
Marjorie E. Weiss

### **Georgia**

Atlanta – First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$33,994  
Connie S. Lee

Canton – St. Clement's Episcopal Church, \$22,346  
James B. Stutler

## **Hawaii**

Honolulu – Nuuanu Congregational Church (UCC), \$50,000  
Mary Paik

## **Illinois**

Chicago – Holy Trinity Church (nondenominational), \$50,000  
Jon M. Dennis

LaGrange – St. Cletus Catholic Church, \$49,035  
Robert J. Clark

Nashville – St. Paul United Church of Christ, \$50,000  
Susan E. Artt

North Riverside – Mater Christi Church (Catholic), \$49,553  
Louis Tylka

Oak Lawn – First United Methodist Church, \$42,750  
Haeran Kim

Ottawa – First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$49,992  
John W. Walker

Quincy – Central Baptist Church (ABC), \$47,461  
Ivan E. Greuter

Park Ridge – Park Ridge Community Church (UCC), \$28,828  
Brett W. McCleneghan

St. Charles – St. Charles Congregational United Church of Christ, \$47,560  
John R. Rodgers

Sauk Village – Emmanuel Christian Reformed Church (CRCNA), \$48,019  
Timothy Koster

Urbana – First Mennonite Church, \$43,971  
Janet E. Rasmussen

## **Iowa**

Council Bluffs – St. John's United Church of Christ, \$50,000  
Anthony D. Portero Paff

Davenport – Christ's Family Church (Reformed Church in America), \$31,185  
Brian L. Akker

Iowa City – Zion Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$46,533  
Mark W. Pries

## **Kansas**

Mission – Countryside Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$45,322  
Clare “Suzi” Goldt

## **Louisiana**

Baton Rouge – First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$18,710  
Michael E. Karunas

## **Maine**

Lewiston – Calvary United Methodist Church, \$44,501  
Casey Collins

## **Maryland**

Baltimore – St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, \$48,925  
Mark A. Stanley

Indian Head – St. James’ Episcopal Church, \$40,905  
Denise E. Cabana

## **Massachusetts**

Boston – St. Paul’s Cathedral (Episcopal), \$41,500  
John P. Streit Jr.

Harwich – St. Peter’s Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$49,997  
Christian Nicely and Tiffany Nicely Holleck

Ipswich – Ascension Church (Episcopal), \$44,760  
Bradford D. Clark

Lowell – Christ Church United (UCC), \$41,804  
Peter A. Lovett

Milford – Trinity Episcopal Church, \$40,497  
William “Mac” Murray

Stockbridge – St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, \$43,882  
Thomas H. Damrosch

Upton – United Parish of Upton (UCC/United Methodist Church [UMC]), \$38,950  
Jan Gregory-Charpentier

Wellesley – Village Church (UCC), \$49,889  
Christina Braudaway-Bauman

Winchester – First Congregational Church (UCC), \$34,032  
Judith B. Arnold

## **Michigan**

Ann Arbor – Huron Hills Church (Baptist General Conference), \$45,180  
Kenneth J. White

Grand Rapids – Woodlawn Christian Reformed Church (CRCNA), \$46,000  
Michael F. Abma

Grandville – Ivanrest Church (CRCNA), \$33,462  
Anthony J. Meyer

Holland – First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$29,614  
Linda Knieriemen

Hudsonville – First Christian Reformed Church (CRCNA), \$42,903  
David L. Jolman

Lake Orion – St. Joseph Church (Catholic), \$31,917  
C. Michael Verschaeve

Manistee – Faith Covenant Church (ECC), \$49,111  
Marc L. Eix

Spring Arbor – Spring Arbor Free Methodist Church, \$48,924  
J. Mark VanValin

## **Minnesota**

Circle Pines – Our Savior’s Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$45,011  
Stephen H. Sylvester

Foley – Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$49,987  
Timothy J. Wittwer

Inver Grove Heights – Bethesda Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$30,514  
Terry I. Nordheim

Mankato – St. John’s Episcopal Church, \$34,697  
Paul G. Rider

Minneapolis – Trinity Lutheran Congregation (ELCA), \$43,994  
Alemseged Asmelash

Plymouth – Plymouth Covenant Church (ECC), \$49,660  
Daniel K. Johnson

St. Paul – Fairmount Avenue United Methodist Church, \$44,105  
Michelle M. Hargrave

## **Mississippi**

Jackson – Galloway Church (UMC), \$49,800  
John “Joey” Shelton IV and Connie M. Shelton

Long Beach – St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, \$27,749  
Louis Lohan

### **Missouri**

Columbia – Bethel Baptist Church (ABC), \$44,480  
Bonnie V. Cassida

St. Joseph – First Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$50,000  
Roger C. Lenander

St. Louis – Third Baptist Church (ABC/SBC/CBF), \$49,200  
Warren J. Hoffman

### **Nebraska**

Omaha – Metropolitan Community Church, \$29,595  
Thomas R. Emmett III

### **New Hampshire**

Hopkinton – St. Andrew's Church (Episcopal), \$36,775  
Kevin D. Nichols

### **New Jersey**

Lawrenceville – Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville (PCUSA), \$48,997  
Jeffrey A. Vamos

Lebanon – Church of the Holy Spirit (Episcopal), \$47,695  
Philip Carr-Jones

Point Pleasant Beach – St. Mary's By-the-Sea Church (Episcopal), \$39,880  
John Thompson-Quartey

Scotch Plains – Willow Grove Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$45,679  
Cynthia Cochran-Carney

### **New York**

Buffalo – St. Stephens-Bethlehem United Church of Christ, \$49,798  
Richard A. Danielson

Ithaca – Christ Chapel (Independent), \$49,967  
Steven D. Felker

New York – West End Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$48,650  
Alistair J. Drummond

Old Forge – Niccolls Memorial Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$49,700  
Lawrence H. Bartel

Patchogue – Congregational Church (UCC), \$41,733  
Dwight L. Wolter

### **North Carolina**

Chapel Hill – United Church of Chapel Hill (UCC), \$47,671  
Jill R. Edens

Charlotte – Carmel Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$45,321  
James M. Szeyller

Durham – Christ the King Moravian Church, \$50,000  
Francis P. and Leslie D. Venable

Durham - Newhope Church (Wesleyan), \$49,655  
Benjamin W. Kelley

Franklin – St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church, \$29,544  
Dorothy L. Pratt

Greensboro – First Friends Meeting (Quaker), \$46,462  
Deborah E. Suess

Huntersville – Lake Forest Church (Evangelical Presbyterian), \$42,082  
Michael V. Moses

New Bern – West New Bern Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$50,000  
Jeffrey A. Sockwell

Oak Ridge – Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$42,307  
Carlton W. Utley

### **Ohio**

Englewood – Concord United Methodist Church, \$50,000  
Thomas A. and Elizabeth Rand

Hamilton – Cornerstone Church (UMC), \$48,897  
Jeffrey A. Raker

Lebanon – Lebanon Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$49,757  
Peter Larson

### **Oklahoma**

Bixby – Trinity Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$35,284  
Cathy A. Hamrick

Oklahoma City – First Baptist Church (CBF), \$49,070  
Thomas C. Ogburn

Owasso – Freedom Church (SBC), \$47,370  
R. Andrew Rankin

## **Oregon**

Pendleton – First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$48,929  
Roger A. Harwerth

## **Pennsylvania**

Elizabethtown – Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren, \$47,561  
Greg D. Laszakovits

Newton Square – St. Alban's Episcopal Church, \$50,000  
Henry D. Elek

Phoenixville – St. Peter's Episcopal Church, \$44,832  
Koshy Mathews

Pittsburgh – East Liberty Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$37,950  
Randall K. Bush

Pittsburgh – Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$37,063  
Robert L. Nichols Jr.

York – Christ Lutheran Church of Spry (ELCA), \$50,000  
James D. Polanzke

## **South Carolina**

Greenville – Downtown Presbyterian Church (Presbyterian Church in America), \$39,806  
Brian C. Habig

Greenville – John Knox Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$46,028  
Joseph S. Gaston

Lexington – Willow Ridge Church (SBC), \$50,000  
Bill H. Howard

Summerville – St. Luke's Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$39,283  
Susan J. Briner

## **South Dakota**

Custer – Custer Lutheran Fellowship (ELCA), \$36,233  
Kent L. Narum

Rapid City – St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, \$45,647  
Paul M. Sneve

Spearfish – St. Joseph Catholic Church, \$25,253  
Timothy S. Hoag

## **Tennessee**

Franklin – First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$30,000  
Christopher A. Joiner

Oak Ridge – Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$49,150  
Steve G. Damos

Shelbyville – Mullin Chapel (African Methodist Episcopal Church), \$49,500  
Yvette M. Tisdale

## **Texas**

Fort Worth – All Saints' Episcopal Church, \$50,000  
Christopher N. Jambor

Houston – Northwoods Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$32,500  
Ann Marie Quigley-Swanson

Houston – Trinity Church (Episcopal), \$49,625  
Hannah E. Atkins

Manchaca – St. Alban's Episcopal Church, \$42,934  
Margaret Waters

San Antonio – Divine Redeemer Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$47,531  
Robert W. Mueller

San Antonio – San Antonio Mennonite Church, \$47,980  
Rachel Epp-Miller

Spring Branch – Riverside Community Church of Alamo Heights (UMC), \$49,837  
Scott R. Heare

Sugar Land – Christ United Methodist Church, \$44,499  
Linda S. Pierce

Trophy Club – Fellowship United Methodist Church, \$49,490  
Daniel D. Humbert

## **Vermont**

Berlin – First Congregational Church (UCC), \$44,832  
Dereen Vanderlinde-Abernathy

South Burlington – Ascension Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$50,000  
Nancy G. Wright

## **Virginia**

Dunn Loring – Holy Cross Episcopal Church, \$49,414  
Walter "Wes" Smedley IV

Fairfax – Providence Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$49,488  
Mary E. Rodgers

Manassas – Trinity Church (Episcopal), \$17,555  
Stuart E. Schadt

McLean – St. Dunstan’s Episcopal Church, \$28,200  
Stephen Shepherd

Midlothian – Woodlake United Methodist Church, \$43,256  
Peter M. Moon

Powhatan – Powhatan Community Church (Virginia Baptist), \$50,000  
Brian C. Hughes

Roanoke – Second Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$46,805  
George C. Anderson

### **Washington**

Bellingham – Alger Community Church (CRCNA), \$26,361  
Richard J. DeRuiter

Edmonds – Edmonds United Methodist Church, \$40,120  
Kathlyn R. James

Kent – Kent Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$39,395  
Jane Prestbye

Mukilteo – Mukilteo Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$50,000  
Mark S. Smith

Naches – Naches Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$30,633  
Steve F. Trotter

Redmond – Redmond Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), \$41,795  
Larry S. Grounds

Seattle – St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, \$50,000  
Peter M. Strimer

Seattle – Seattle Chinese Alliance Church (Christian and Missionary Alliance), \$28,860  
Tung Do

Sumner – First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$50,000  
Rochelle R. Richards

Tacoma – St. Mark’s Lutheran Church by the Narrows (ELCA), \$49,710  
Jan Ruud

### **West Virginia**

Charleston – United Disciples of Christ Church, \$46,506  
Steven A. Smith

## **Wisconsin**

Appleton – First English Church (ELCA), \$38,700  
Jeffrey A. Tengesdal

Black River Falls – Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$49,824  
Eric E. Bakken

Brookfield – Cross of Life Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$48,156  
John Horner-Ibler

Brookfield – St. John Vianney Catholic Church, \$32,601  
Kenneth P. Knippel

Oconomowoc – Our Savior's Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$32,345  
Karen R. Natterstad

Pewaukee – St. Anthony on the Lake (Catholic), \$33,041  
Anthony J. Zimmer

Pigeon Falls – Pigeon Creek Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), \$30,018  
Dale E. Moe

Verona – St. James Church (ELCA), \$42,890  
Peter W. Narum

Wausau – Highland Church (Evangelical Free Church of America), \$50,000  
Jeffrey Hinds